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R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claim 23 has been amended. Nine claims remain pending in the application: Claims 23 though 31. Reconsideration of claims 23 through 31 is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's willingness to take part in the telephonic interview on February 23, 2006 and in a subsequent telephone conversation on February 24, 2006.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Summary of Applicant Initiated Examiner Interview

Per 37 CFR § 133(b), the following is a brief summary of the Examiner interview conducted February 23, 2006 via telephone between Kurt M. Eaton and Tom F. Levens, Agent and Attorney of Record, and Examiner Khanh Dang.

No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted. Only claim 23 was discussed in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,583 to Pincus et al.

The principal arguments discussed during the interview are identified as follows. Pincus et al. does not anticipate claim 23 because Pincus et al. does not teach wherein the RBC defined therein includes the claimed peer coupling and sequencer.

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The Examiner suggested that Applicant amend the claims in an effort to further clarify the subject matter that applicants are claiming. In a telephone conversation held on February 24, 2006 between the Examiner and Kurt M. Eaton, the Examiner indicated that the amendment to claim 23 presented above would likely overcome the present rejection of claims 23-30 under *Pincus et al.*.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,583 (*Pincus et al.*).

As set forth at M.P.E.P. § 2131, a claim is anticipated only if every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

As presently amended, claim 23 is directed to a redundant bus controller (RBC) that includes, among other elements, "a peer coupling configured to communicate state information of the RBC to another bus controller for coordinating control of a bus between a plurality of system hosts; ... and a sequencer configured to transition the RBC between a state in which the RBC is connected to the bus and a state in which the RBC is disconnected from the bus..."

*Pincus et al.* describes wherein individual register bits within the sequencer 24/CPU register array 88 can be enabled and disabled (see *Pincus et al.* column 9, lines 39-45; column 13, line 30 - column 15, line 11) but fails to teach wherein the sequencer 24 is configured to transition the RBC (i.e., the CPU

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register 88 - see page 2 of Office Action mailed October 26, 2005) between a state in which the RBC is connected to a bus and a state in which the RBC is disconnected to the bus, as now recited in claim 23. To the contrary, the RBC of *Pincus et al.* must always be connected to the data bus 66 so that it can communicate with the processor elements 40. Therefore, the sequencer 24 of *Pincus et al.* cannot be configured to transition the RBC defined therein between a state in which the RBC is connected to a bus and a state in which the RBC is disconnected to the bus, as the claim 23 recites.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that *Pincus et al.* fails to describe, either expressly or inherently, each and every element now recited in claim 23. Accordingly, withdrawal of the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

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C O N C L U S I O N

Applicant submits that the above remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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